

# DOCTORING A PROFITLESS FARM

By GEORGE H. DACY



Preparing the Ground by Taking Out All the Old Roots.

If you were a countryman whose farm was not paying very well and an agricultural expert came along and said: "Let me show you how you can double and triple your present income;" if the man looked sane and intelligent, you would doubtless jump at the chance.

Furthermore, if he made good on his assertion he would win your everlasting gratitude and perhaps you would recompense him with a little cash bonus. Now this is just the opportunity that the farm management department of the Missouri Agricultural college is offering to the farmers of the "show me" state.

The department says: "Ask for our aid and we will show you how to tonic your sickly bank accounts and how to increase the profits of every branch of your farm." Even the most skeptical who, to begin with, made fun of the proposition have been silenced because the Missouri farm management department has made good on all its assertions.

Today some 500 local farmers are annually recording greater profits on the credit side of their ledgers as a result of following the advice and plans mapped out for them by the department.



An experiment in growing cow peas with corn on one of the demonstration farms. The peas will fatten from six to 10 western lambs at a profit of \$10 per acre.

The department was organized in 1906 under the direction of Prof. W. J. Spillman of the United States department of agriculture, and F. B. Mumford, dean of the Missouri Agricultural college. For four years its work was confined to an accurate study of local farm conditions—a resume of the knotty problems of the Missouri farmer and how he could be best aided in solving them.

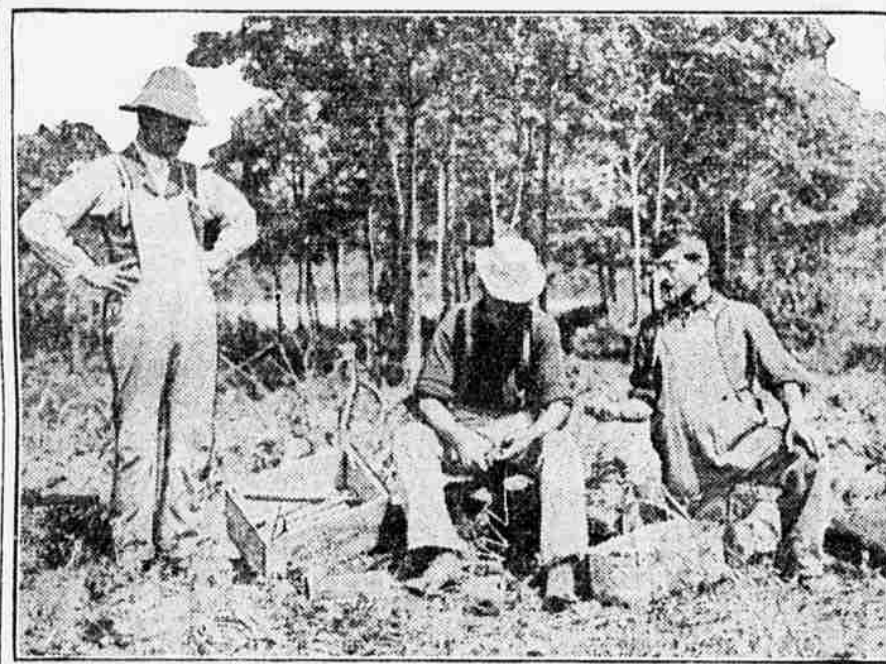
Then when the force was thoroughly conversant with the "star boarder" farms of the state and had planned an efficient campaign whose object was to eradicate the evil features of the unprofitable farm, they offered to help the general farmer re-map his system of management, his crop rotations, his methods of marketing his produce, and to adapt his line of farming to the region in which he resided.

## Confidence in Organization Grows.

It was a case of "first come, first served," and after these business management doctors had cured a few severe cases of "loafer" farms and made them profitable and more productive, applications requesting aid came in

like hot cakes from countrymen in all portions of the state.

As an illustration of what these expert farm managers could accomplish in rehabilitating a good farm which was run down, due to mismanagement, take the case of "Jim" Brown, who was considered one of the best farmers in



Removing With Dynamite Some of the Largest Roots.

his district; yet he, on the quiet, appealed to the department for aid.

A representative visited the farm and found it apparently in good condition, supplied with good buildings, and annually yielding bumper crops of grain and roughage, 30 bushels of wheat, 60 bushels of corn and two tons of hay to the acre.

It was a different story, however, when the expert examined the live stock. The dairy cows were scrubs of the worst variety, with staring coats and every rib showing, and with udders not larger than a man's two fists.

The swine and horses were also inferior specimens of twentieth century live stock, while the supply of farm machinery was in no sense modern and efficient. Here was a case of a countryman who was exerting all his energies toward the production of profitable crops, only to feed them to unprofitable live stock.

From 12 cows he obtained only enough milk to supply the need of his family of six persons. The department showed him where the leak was, and explained to him how he could harmonize all his operations and render his farm more fertile and profitable by maintaining better live stock. He acceded to their advice and today is gaining a profitable livelihood and yearly fattening his bank account under a standardized system of management.

## Farmers Take Kindly to the Plan.

The popularity of this movement to rejuvenate sick farms increased to such an extent that a year ago the department organized the Missouri Farm Management association, the pioneer society of its character in America, the members being recruited from among the ranks of the owners of unprofitable farms who desired to nurse all the operations on their acreages back to a wage-earning condition.

The object of this association was to organize and combine the farmers of Missouri who were interested in practical system of farm management. It added the department in so much as the countrymen who needed and wanted help were centralized in the organization, while it aided the farmers in so far as the department experts promised to visit and replan each place in turn. Two hundred earnestly interested farmers joined the society the first year, while at present the enrollment is double that number. Each countryman pays \$1.25 membership fee—the

funds being used to aid the department in its work.

**Farmers Co-Operate With Department.** After his farm has been inspected by the department, in case a member of the society follows out the suggestions of the experts (although he is not in any way bound to carry out these suggested changes) he becomes a co-operator. The majority of the co-operators adhere strictly to the advice of the department.

Each year the department selects the best co-operative farm in each county and makes it a demonstration farm which conducts local experimental work under the direction of the experts. In the case of the demonstration farm, the department assumes the initiative and devotes as much attention to the place as is necessary to make it pre-eminently successful, and spares no pains in assisting the operators of these farms to bring them to the highest possible state of fertility and to the maximum point of profitability.

On the other hand, co-operator must take the initiative in all phases of his work, although he receives aid and assistance from the department experts when he stumbles onto a knotty problem. At present there are 75 co-operative and five demonstration farms in the state, and each summer, public meetings are held on the places of the demonstrators, where typical and illustrative results have been obtained.

Farmers from all parts of the country are invited to attend these meetings at which prominent agricultural experts and authorities on farm management discuss the various phases of farming practiced in Missouri. At noon, a basket lunch is served by the ladies of the county in which the gathering is held, and in the afternoon the men visit each individual field, study the crop, and informally discuss the efficiency of the methods of seed bed preparation, planting and cultivation which have been practiced in the development of this crop.

state farmers how to maintain a practical and business-like system of records and accounts.

One Missouri farmer last winter lost \$300 on work stock alone, due to the fact that he had more animals than he could keep busy. It is really a question of each farmer studying out how many head of animals he can profitably maintain, and then not exceeding this number. The same thing is true of the scrub cows which eat up the profits of the other farm departments.

The work of the Missouri farm management department is state-wide in scope and is efficient in solving the problems of the five-acre farm, the 500-acre farm, or the farm whose owner merely desires to keep the wolf from the door, or to save his place from being burdened with a mortgage.

In a word, the department is devoting just as much attention and study to replanting an unprofitable ten-acre truck or fruit farm as it is to remodeling an 8,000-acre stock farm.

## The Concrete Examples.

Among the practical results which the department has obtained in its first aid work to the farmers is the case of a 140-acre farm which, the first year it was worked, yielded ten bushels of corn, 15 bushels of potatoes, and one-fourth of a ton of hay to the acre.

The managerial experts recommended the use of better seed, the fall distribution of 15 tons of manure to the acre, and modern methods of culture; this farmer followed these directions and the second year afterwards he harvested 40 bushels of corn, one and three-quarter tons of hay, and 100 bushels of potatoes to the acre on the fields on which these crops were grown.

He was a man of very limited capital and the season he requested departmental assistance his assets amounted to \$2,000, while his liabilities totaled \$1,800. At the end of the second year following, he was out of all danger of debt and had a tiny sum stored away in the bank.

Another notable illustration of managerial efficiency resulted where a hog raiser on a rough, 100-acre farm shifted his troubles to the shoulders of the expert managers who set him right on his feeding system and got him to study market conditions and requirements, so that he last year realized \$1,200 from the sale of his swine, whereas previously his high mark for hogs for a single year was \$500.

Although ordinary work stock are not supposed to yield much of an annual profit another farmer cleared \$300 in one year from his work animals subsequent to consulting with the departmental experts who advised him to decrease the number of work animals which he kept and to work the horses and mules more during the winter.

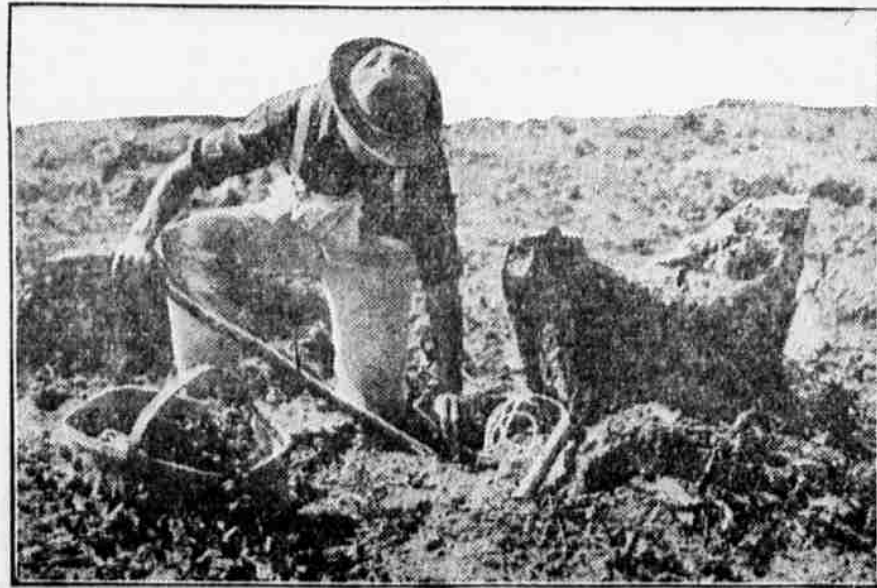
A city man, inexperienced in farming, struggled along for five years just about making ends meet and then he employed the assistance of the farm experts who diagnosed his troubles as a poor rotation, the use of scrub seed, and the under-feeding of his market animals.

He followed their directions, improving his methods, and now is gaining a profitable return from his made-to-order farm.

The farm has materially gained in fertility, it has increased in annual crop production, and this year it paid off its back indebtedness and begins a new season with a clean slate.

## Indian Legend of Interest.

When the Creek or Muskogee Indians adopted into their tribe the remnants of other tribes which were nearly extinct many superstitions were found among them. One of these tribes was the Tuckabatches. The legends of the Creeks state that the Tuckabatches brought with them seven plates, the origin and object of which have puzzled scientific men for centuries. The Tuckabatches claim that these plates were given them by their ancestors. They were not to be handled by all persons, only by particular men, and those chosen



Getting Things Ready.

works according to the theory that if you cannot bring the farmer's wife to the college then take the college and science to the kitchen of the housewife.

She plans out the management of each home as practically and systematically as the home pocketbook will permit.

The Missouri farm management department also maintains a farm accounting branch which teaches the

by the chief or mico of the tribe. Five of the plates were of copper and two of brass. The copper plates were about 18 inches long and seven inches wide; the brass ones being round and 18 inches in diameter, having two characters on them similar to the letters A and B connected. The plates were kept buried under the house of the chief and are believed to be still in existence.—Tallaquah (Okla.) Democrat.

## Novelty Is Lamp-Shade Dress



AMONG the odd and novel ideas introduced in styles by Poiret last fall a few survived their introduction, among them the minaret dress, of which an example is shown here. A narrow skirt, under a wired tunic, which extends about to the knee, characterizes this mode. Americans called it the "lamp-shade" style, which title fits very well and explains more than "minaret."

The tunic or overdress, wired at the bottom to hold it away from the figure, is usually of transparent or semi-transparent material—Chiffon or lace, for example. The magnificent beaded and embroidered dresses have been much liked. But for the ordinary evening gown of crepe, satin, charmeuse and other light fabrics, the tunic is of the same material as the skirt, and the bodice is made of lace combined with some of the material in the skirt.

In the gorgeous gown pictured here (an extreme of the style) the bodice is hardly more than a broad sash of lace wrapped about the figure and tied in a big butterfly bow at the back. A narrower scarf of lace passes over the shoulders and supports the sash. There is a small embroidered panel of beaded net finished with three large tassels at the middle front of the bodice, supported by invisible wires, probably about the edge. These large tassels are featured this season—another one of the successful ideas of the designer.

This bodice is not to be considered as an example of the usual bodice worn with the minaret gown. It shows the extreme which one may expect in some stage gowns. The sash, made of a scarf of lace, is an excellent idea, but the lack of any other draping over the shoulders than a crisp of light lace makes the bodice impossible for Americans. They have used these sashes in tulle and lace, with the big bows at the back, sparingly, and never without other drapery.

The features embodied in this gown have been repeated and developed in other ways very successfully. Skirts of moire, with tunics of chiffon edged with marabout or fur, are very successful. Also skirts of satin or crepe-de-chine with chiffon tunics, and soft lace bodices with draping and oversleeves of chiffon are beautiful and effective.

Velvet dresses repeat the idea employing the velvet for the lower part of the skirt and silk for the upper part. Bodices of chiffon over silk and net are in the same color as the skirt with guilms and undersleeves of white lace.

The head dress worn with the costume pictured is one of the prettiest which has appeared among the very elaborate styles introduced early. It is less pretentious than many designed for the opera and it appears among others that have been successful in bidding for favor.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

## FANCY MARABOUT SET MUCH USED INSTEAD OF FURS

ALMOST as warm as furs and far less expensive, marabout sets have been growing in favor with women in the milder climates, and with those who wear furs only when the weather is very cold. They are very cozy, the



feathers seeming to generate warmth, but they do not actually keep away the cold as well as furs do.

Marabout has been dyed in many colors this season and made up with short curled ostrich flues into very handsome sets. Women like them because they are very becoming accessories and do not need to be discarded indoors when one is to make a brief stay. The cape or stole thrown off the shoulders, and the muff carried in one hand, help out the toilette immensely. Even when a coat is removed, these with hat and gloves are

retained on numbers of demi-dress occasions.

The neckpieces and muffs are made up of strands of marabout and strands of ostrich tacked together. Sometimes two colors, as black and white, natural and white, or white and the pastel shades, are combined. Natural color—a taupe gray—is the great favorite and a wonderfully beautiful color. Neckpieces are usually straight scarves, rather long, although there are capes and stoles in some variety.

The muffs are made up in plain shapes, not draped or in eccentric pattern, which have been popular in furs.

A good marabout set will last several seasons and promises to be increasingly popular. It is much better than any of the very cheap furs, in appearance, and quite as durable. If one wants the comfortable appearance and the real comfort of a neckpiece and muff, and a measure of elegance in the effect, marabout is much to be preferred to furs at the same price.

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## Sewing Room Hint.

When you are making a jacket and want to fit it on a stand, even if the stand is made to your measure, don't forget to put a fully trimmed bodice on the stand before you, put the jacket on it, for, of course, the jacket should be fitted so that it can be worn over any bodice without being tight; many amateurs fit their jackets on the stand, forgetting to put the bodice on first. The same may be said about winter bodices, that are to be worn over thick vests or slip-bodices, if thick underclothing is to be worn, it should be put on the stand before the bodice is fitted.

## Lace Novelty.

An odd idea in collar and cuff sets just out is to weave a Cupid's head in Venise lace. The head is the central portion of the design, the regulation pattern extending to the edges of the collars and cuffs.